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1947



pp. 11670 to end

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FO 371 51833

61833

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E11670/40/31

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Reference: FO 371 / 61833					

1947 572 E11733 148/9 31/6 W'lon 6889 Dated 8 Dec Received 11 Dec	Palestine EASTERN	E11733 /G 11 DEC 1947 3
	Proposal for accepting increase in immigration to Palestine from Cyprus.	
Last Paper. E11670	(Minutes.) See with 1. Ref Tel to Palestine 3155 2. Tel to Palestine 3167 3. Palestine to 2356	
References. E11632/48/9		
(Print.)		
(How disposed of.) Tel W'lon 13.177 20 Dec Rpd Jerusalem New York 4369 ✓	Draft submitted. I am not sure whether I am right in assuming that the 5/5% statement in the House on the liberation of a port for Jewish immigration has superseded the Defence Committee's invitation to the Chiefs of Staff (conclusion (1) of D.O. (47) 26th meeting, attached). H.B. Bealey 15/12 Now see second draft, to New York. The C.O. concurs in both drafts. H.B. Bealey 17/12 Draft to N. York cancelled. Draft to Washington sent 19.12 seen by Mr Wrigley. B.A.B. no. 12	
(Action completed.) 25/12	(Index.) W.H.	
Next Paper.		

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E11632 10 DEC 1947 4
[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel
No. 6889

D. 10.10 p.m. 8th December, 1947.

8th December, 1947.

R. 3.35 a.m. 9th December, 1947.

Repeated to : Jerusalem
United Kingdom Delegation, New York

SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 6889 of December 8th: repeated to Jerusalem and United Kingdom Delegation, New York,

Your telegram No. 12609: Palestine. *Not yet rec'd.*

In view of Jerusalem telegram No. 2556 I propose to take no action with State Department on your telegram under reference pending receipt of your views on the questions raised by the High Commissioner and in particular on the possibility of our accepting an increase in immigration from Cyprus.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 105.

[Copy sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

E11733

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76021/47 Pt. 3.

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)
FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 6th December, 1947. 13.45 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 3155 Top Secret.

Personal from Trafford Smith. Your telegram
No. 2311. Illegal Immigration.

When recommendation that port should be evacuated by 1st February was discussed in ad hoc committee on 22nd November the U.K. representative reserved H.M.G.'s position by saying that their acceptance of this provision would depend on the plan of withdrawal and they would, therefore, at that stage, only take note of the proposal.

2. We do not yet know what H.M.G.'s policy regarding the evacuation of the port will be, although it is likely to be held that formal evacuation would be inconsistent with policy of keeping U.N. Commission out of Palestine until May. Nor has a final decision been taken regarding illegal immigration policy. These questions are being discussed by the Official Committee on Monday, 8th December, and will probably be considered by Ministers on 10th December. Two alternative courses of action will be discussed:

- (a) continuation of the policy of taking what preventive measures are possible outside Palestine after 1st February including the interception and diversion of ships by the Navy to Cyprus where practicable;

(b) /

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(b) permitting the Jewish Agency to begin transferring Jews from Cyprus to Palestine from 1st February at a rate in excess of 1,500 a month, and which might be as high as 6,500 a month.

3. The political advantages of (a) are obvious. The disadvantages and difficulties are:

- (i) if it becomes clear that H.M.G., despite the recommendation in the UNO Plan regarding immigration, are not going to permit an increase in legal immigration, we shall almost certainly be faced with greatly increased illegal immigration which might lead to the filling of Cyprus at a comparatively early date;
- (ii) it would become increasingly difficult to persuade foreign governments to co-operate in measures against illegal immigration;
- (iii) there will be great difficulty in clearing the Cyprus camps (should they reach their full capacity of 34,000) between 15th May and 1st August;
- (iv) continued expenditure on the Cyprus camps estimated at £250,000 a month would still further deplete Palestine's assets.

4. The advantages of (b) would be that if the Agency were permitted to clear Cyprus at a reasonable rate we might confidently look for a complete cessation of illegal immigration. The practical difficulties of clearing the camps would also be very greatly eased.

5. This course would, we realise, have substantial political disadvantages and both War Office and Foreign Office think that any such departure from our present immigration policy would lead to trouble with the Arabs which might have more serious consequences for our withdrawal than a continued application of the policy controlling immigration.

6. We should be grateful for your views in general by 10 a.m. Monday. One of the unknown factors is of course the extent to which the Navy would in fact be able to intercept and divert to Cyprus future illegal immigration ships. Ends.

Distributed to: -/

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References

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

E11733

75021/47 Pt.3.

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 6th December, 1947. 14.00 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 3167 Top Secret.

Personal from Trafford Smith. My telegram No. 3155.
Illegal Immigration.

Subject to your remarks we think on further consideration that there is clear advantage in pressing for course (b) which would be represented rather as a necessary part of our plans for liquidating our Palestine commitments than as a formal increase in the quota.

2. It might be put to Jewish Agency (although deterrent effect would admittedly be small) that any illegal immigrants who arrive after start of increased shipments from Cyprus would be allowed to remain in Palestine but that corresponding number would be deducted from Cyprus quota; or alternatively to press them more generally that the new arrangement could only apply so long as illegal immigration was held under control. This might be of assistance in forestalling Arab reaction and ensuring that Agency in fact do their utmost to stop further illegal immigration.

Distributed to:-

R. 243	Mr. Trafford Smith
Secretary of State	Mr. Gutch
Sir T. Lloyd	Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Rees-Williams	Mr. Higham
Sir S. Caine	Mr. Galsworthy
Sir C. Jeffries	Mr. Holmer
Mr. Holding	Mr. Gibson
Mr. Martin	Mr. Dale
War Office	C.I.G.S.
Air Ministry	Chief of Air Staff.
Admiralty	First Sea Lord.
Ministry of Defence	Lt. Col. Haddon.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

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R. 243

- C.I.G.S.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- First Sea Lord.
- Lt. Col. Haddon.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

ENY33

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D.7th December, 1947.

R.7th " " 19.04 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 2356 Top Secret and Personal.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to Washington No. 288 and United Kingdom
Delegation No. 1697 Washington please
pass to United Kingdom Delegation.

Your telegrams Nos. 3155 and 3167.

Whole question of future illegal immigration is inextricable from our action in regard to U.N.O. recommendation that we should evacuate Tel Aviv on or before 1st February. I am clear that it would be most inadvisable to accept this recommendation not (repeat not) on account of the possibility of free immigration but because under these conditions Jews would pour arms into this country. In my opinion this would have a much greater disturbing effect on the Arabs than would an increase in immigration. It would, in fact, be an invitation to them to take early action against the Jews before the latter became fully armed. Although I cannot deny that an increase in immigration will have an adverse effect on the Arabs, yet, of the two evils viz:- increased immigration or the import of arms, I consider the former is less unattractive.

2. I agree that as an alternative to evacuating a port it will be necessary to give the Jews some satisfaction in the matter of immigration and therefore that it would be better in principle to permit an increase in the quota from Cyprus in accordance with your alternative (corrupt group). I feel that

it/

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FO 371 / 54833

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2352 177 10 8

it should be presented to (group omitted ?them) as liquidation of our commitments as you suggest and therefore that numbers to be admitted from Cyprus might be in monthly instalments so that the camps are empty by the end of May. Number which could be transferred from Cyprus would be limited by the amount of transport Jews could provide. I presume quota of 750 from Europe should still continue.

3. If this does not satisfy the Jews it will indicate the importance they attach to the importance of arms. Please see my telegram No. 2352, paragraph 2(iv).
(Copies sent to Foreign Office for onward transmission)

Distributed to:-

R.243
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. Rees-Williams
Sir S. Caine
Sir C. Jeffries
Mr. Holding
Mr. Martin

Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Galsworthy
Mr. Holmer
Mr. Dale

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Registry
No.

E 11733/48/6

CYPHER

13177 of 20th Dec

for info to
ref. U.K. Del. New York & 11

Jerusalem

Immediate

Date

Secret

Despatched

Draft. Lil. 15

Washington

13177

20/12

Report to:

Jerusalem Co.

U.K. Del. New York

H362

Cypher

Diplomatic (Secret)

H-13. 15/12

JAB Sumner
19.12

Your telegram no. 6889 [7th Dec.]

Palestine.

Jewish

The question of immigration during the next few months was discussed in the course of the Palestine debate which took place in the House of Commons on the 11th and 12th December. The Colonial Secretary appealed to "all nations and the Jewish community" to exercise restraint until the mandate was laid down. He continued: "If the traffic is ~~encouraged~~ encouraged during the next few months, a grave situation in Palestine will arise which will make an orderly withdrawal and transfer of authority extremely difficult. The camps in Cyprus have also to be emptied".

2. Replying at the end of the debate to requests for further information, I said: "There is no obligation upon us to change the immigration quota during the short remaining period in which we shall be responsible in Palestine." 9

/also

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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13

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 15177

D. 5.15 p.m. 20th December, 1947.

20th December, 1947.

Repeated to : Jerusalem
(via Colonial Office)
United Kingdom Delegation,
New York, No. 4362

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

SECRET

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 13177 of 20th
December: repeated for information to United Kingdom
Delegation, New York, and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 6889 [of 8th December].

Palestine.

The question of Jewish immigration during the next few months was discussed in the course of the Palestine debate which took place in the House of Commons on the 11th and 12th December. The Colonial Secretary appealed to "all nations and the Jewish community" to exercise restraint until the mandate was laid down. He continued: "If the traffic is encouraged during the next few months, a grave situation in Palestine will arise which will make an orderly withdrawal and transfer of authority extremely difficult. The camps in Cyprus have also to be emptied".

2. Replying at the end of the debate to requests for further information, I said: "There is no obligation upon us to change the immigration quota during the short remaining period in which we shall be responsible in Palestine". I also appealed to the Jews not to act provocatively. With regard to Cyprus, I said that we expected to clear the camps there "between now and the withdrawal". Answering a specific question which evidently referred to Tel Aviv, I said: "I cannot agree to open a port until we lay down the mandate. We cannot have two administrations at one time".

3. The above should make it possible for you to approach the State Department on the lines indicated in my telegram No. 12609. For your own information only, the Defence Committee have decided that, while for the present the quota for legal immigrants from Europe should remain unchanged, there should be an increase of a few hundreds a month in the numbers of Jews admitted from the detention camps in Cyprus and Germany, and special groups of Jewish children should be admitted outside the quota. There will be no (repeat no) formal announcement of these relaxations.

III

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Reference: **FO** 37 **100833**

<p>1947</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN AFRICA</p>	<p>E11736 /G</p>
<p>E11736 148 1/2 31/6</p> <p>Alexandria 23 dated 9 Dec Received 11 Dec</p>	<p><u>Sas Tamploas</u></p>	
<p>Last Paper. (E11289) E11733</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p>	
<p>References. E11289/148/2</p>	<p>The Egyptians have recently been lecturing us about the prevention of Jewish illegal immigration. Now let them line up to their words. Draft to Cairo.</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i> (J.E. CABLE) 12/12</p>	
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8) 11P being done 11 Dec</p> <p>Tel. Cairo. No. 2258 De. 13th.</p> <p>Repeated to Alexandria No. 36.</p> <p>+ S.N.O., Port Said, No. 76.</p> <p>8) 11P. Dec. 15.</p>	<p>1. Cairo 2295</p> <p>11 Dec</p> <p>Now see E12246</p> <p>12/12</p>	
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>27/12</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>11/12</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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15
Cypher/OTP

Green
11 DEC 1947
DEPARTMENTAL No. 1

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul-General
No. 23

D. 7.25 p.m. 9th December 1947.

9th December 1947. R. 7.00 p.m. 9th December 1947.

Addressed to Cairo telegram No. 13 of December 9th
repeated to Foreign Office telegram No. 23 and to Senior
Naval Officer, Port Said.

Reference my telegram No. 12 regarding Las Tampus and
Jewish immigration.

Customs administration [grp.undec.] allow ship sufficient
coal to enable her to take rice cargo to Genoa and they press
for fuller evidence in support of suspicion, if permit is to
be withheld beyond December 11th request backing with sellers
in case you want the ship detained here longer.

ITT.

11 DEC 1947

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Reference:

FO

371

51833

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16

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R.I. Campbell.
No. 2,295.

D: 10.42 a.m. 11th December, 1947.

11th December, 1947.

R: 11.58 a.m. 11th December, 1947.

Repeated Saving to: Alexandria, S.N.O., Port Said.

Addressed Foreign Office telegram No. 2,295 December 11th
repeated Saving Alexandria, S.N.O., Port Said.

Alexandria telegram No. 13 to me.

What action do you wish taken.

000

7.

Apr 1 - Sept.

1947

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Registry
No. E11736/48/6

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

Draft.

CAIRO

Telegram.

No. 2258

(Date) Dec 13

Repeat to:-

Alexandria 36
[S.N.O.] Port Said 76

~~En Clair.~~
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution:-

Departmental No. 1

Copies to:-

I.I.P.

15/12

OUT FILE
CYIPHER

Despatched

1558 M.

Important
Confidential

Addressed Cairo Telegram
no 2258 December no 13th repeated
for information to Alexandria and
Port Said - for S.N.O.

Alexandria Telegram no. 13
to you [of 9th December: Jewish
illegal immigration] and your Telegram
no. 2245 We have no further evidence
here beyond that contained in
Fortnightly List.

2. In view of KHASHABA PASHA's
remarks about Jewish immigration
reported in your Telegram no. 2266,
I nevertheless consider that we
are fully justified in expecting
Egyptian cooperation in this case. You
/should

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[Signature]

H-13. 13/12

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Green

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

No. 2258
13th December, 1947. D. 1.55 p.m. 13th December, 1947.

IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

Alexandria telegram No. 13 to you [of 9th December:
Jewish illegal immigration] and your telegram No. 2295.

2. In view of Khashaba Pasha's remarks about Jewish immigration reported in your telegram No. 2266, I nevertheless consider that we are fully justified in expecting Egyptian cooperation in this case. You should point out that His Majesty's Government can not hope to prevent this traffic if even the Arab States themselves will not assist. Egyptian Government should, therefore, give practical and effective expression to their anxiety about Jewish immigration by continuing to detain this ship.

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<p>1947</p>	<p><u>Palestine</u> EASTERN</p>	<p>E11737 /G 20</p>
<p>574 E11737/48/931/G</p> <p>Paris 270 Saw</p> <p>Dated 8 Dec Received 11 Dec</p>	<p><u>Maria Annick.</u></p> <p>Rpts Paris to Diaecio No 4.</p>	
<p>Last Paper. E11736</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p>	<p>8/11/12</p>
<p>References.</p>		
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8) 11P</p> <p>8 Dec</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>WF 12/12</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>26/12</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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EN CLAIR

Green
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

Empty

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

11 DEC 1947

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Mr. Duff Cooper
No. 270. Saving.

R. December 8th, 1947.

December 8th, 1947.

Addressed to His Majesty's Consul Ajaccio
telegram No. 4, repeated to Foreign Office No.
270 (Saving).

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL.

Jewish Illegal Immigration.

Please investigate report that small
auxiliary schooner named "Maria Annick" is
refitting in Bastia for this traffic.

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11788

24

1947

PALESTINE

12 DEC

Registry
Number

E11788/48/31

FROM

40 minutes

No.

M. Beith

Dated

Received
in Registry

10 Dec

12 -

HMG Policy, Illegal Immigration
Transmits note for GO re policy of HMG
with regard to Illegal Immigration, prepared
in the light of the brief for the Colonial
Secretary for debate starting Dec 11

Last Paper.

11779

(Minutes.)

H.B. 131/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]
21/7/48

Next Paper.

E11790

29470 F.O.P.

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61833

B.A.M. ^{Entered}
 - Interview of the 25.
 urgency of the matter
 I have sent an
 advance copy to
 Co. explaining that
 it is subject to
 final approval in this
 Office. JB Dec. 10

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Reference: FO 371/54833

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FO 371 / 64033

- (3) A decision to increase immigration would undo any good that has been done by our strictly impartial attitude at the United Nations in regard to Palestine. We should lose greatly in prestige and goodwill throughout the Middle East.

(4)/

RECEIVED IN O.B.
12 DEC 1947
SENT TO DEPT.

27

12 DEC 1947

(4) The Jews have won their point on partition and we have gone a very long way to meet them by strictly refraining from any criticism of the unrealistic partition plan worked out by the United Nations. In view of our very fair and impartial attitude (we constantly refused to lobby under Arab pressure) it is not much to ask from the Jews that they should accept our decision to maintain the status quo on immigration for the remaining months of the Mandate and thereby avoid poisoning our relations with the Arab world. The Chiefs-of-Staff and Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, attach the highest importance to the maintenance of good relations with the Arabs and Service Department Representatives in inter-departmental meetings have been more inclined to fear Arab reactions to an increase in the quota than Jewish reactions to its maintenance.

J. G. S. Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)
10th December 1947

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immigrants has rendered more difficult the task of the internal security forces in Palestine. There is good evidence to connect the arrival of illegal immigrant ships with specific terrorist outrages e.g. the arrival of the ULUA on 28th February, 1947 was connected with the attack on 1st March, 1947 on the Army Officers Club in Jerusalem in which 13 people were killed and 18 injured. The United Nations passed a Resolution on the 15th of May, 1947 calling on Governments and peoples to refrain from acts calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine and H.M.G. invited the Secretary General to appeal to Member States to stop illegal immigration in a letter from Sir Alexander Cadogan which drew attention to this Resolution.

A considerable volume of evidence is available to show that illegal immigration is organised by the Hagana acting for this purpose under the guidance of the Jewish Agency. It is clear also that the funds for illegal immigration are mainly contributed by Zionist sympathisers in the U.S.A. and that the whole movement of illegal immigrants across Central Europe to the ports of embarkation could not be undertaken without the active support of the A.J.D.C. Ministers have recently decided however that the time is not opportune for a full statement setting out what H.M.G. know about the organisation and financing of the traffic.

It is suggested that all that need be said on the subject of illegal immigration is that during the last four months, with the exception of two large vessels that sailed from the Black Sea with 4,000 illegal immigrants on board, the traffic has been ^{on a comparatively small scale} at a virtual standstill and that there is reason to believe that this improved situation is not unconnected with the frequent consultations during the past few months between H.M.G. and the Foreign Governments concerned who have shown themselves anxious

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Tola Higham
to keep
the up.

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to ensure that their port facilities are not abused and their laws flouted by the organisers of the traffic. Attention might also be drawn to the two large ships, PAN YORK and PAN CRESCENT, now at Constanza which are known to be intended for the traffic. The attention of the Roumanian Government has been drawn to these vessels and H.M.G. trust that the departure of these and similar vessels will be prevented by the Governments concerned [who will realise that the arrival of further thousands of illegal immigrants can only further complicate the transfer of responsibility to the United Nations Commission.]

The Defence Committee are being asked to decide between the following alternative courses of action regarding future immigration:-

- (1) To maintain the existing monthly quota until the 15th of May, leaving the majority of the Jews in detention to be transferred to Palestine between that date and the 1st of August; or
- (2) To increase the quota as from 1st January 1948 to the figure necessary to clear the illegal immigrant camps in Cyprus and Germany by the 15th of May (i.e. about 5,000 a month).

The Official Committee on Palestine have recommended that in any case the available monthly quota should in future be allotted in full to occupants of the illegal immigrant camps in Cyprus and Germany.

Whichever of the above courses is decided it will not be desirable to give any great prominence in a statement by H.M.G. to the question of illegal immigration. The Foreign Office are preparing a short note to cover questions that may be asked should course (1) be agreed. Should course (2) be decided it would not be desirable

/to

Mr applicator
if we are going
to let the
Cyprus Jews in
at 5000 a
month.

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to mention this change of policy in the House until the High Commissioner and H.M. representatives abroad have had the opportunity of explaining the reasons for the change to the Jews and Arabs.

The numbers in the camps at Cyprus at present are 16,400. The maximum capacity of the camps (though no figure should be made public) is 34,000.

There has recently been some publicity about the conditions in which infants are housed in the Cyprus camps. It could be stated that arrangements have been made to transfer these infants (some 500 in number) to Palestine together with their parents, ~~as an advance on future quotas~~. In the case of parents, they are taking the place of other persons with prior claims to enter Palestine who have surrendered their places in the queue; infants are being admitted as advances on future quotas.

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<p>518</p> <p>1947</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E11899 / G</p> <p>15 DEC 1947</p> <p>34</p>
<p>E11899 1481 31/G</p> <p>COS (44) 152nd MIQ</p> <p>Pin 8</p> <p>dated 8 Dec</p> <p>Received 15 Dec</p>	<p>Illegal immigration</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E11891</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>See within</p> <p>1. COS (44) 159th MIQ Pin 4</p> <p>2. COS (44) 160th MIQ Pin 10</p> <p>14 Dec.</p> <p>19 Dec.</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25/12</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>leg.</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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FO 371 / 61833

5 DEC 1947

S/S Foreign Affairs

(THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS
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35

SECRET

E11899

15 DEC 1947

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

S.(47) 152nd Meeting, Item 8
d Monday, 8th December 1947.

An extract from the above
utes is attached.

(Signed) D.C. STAPLETON.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, S.W.1.

10th December, 1947.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 81833**

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8. PALESTINE - ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION E

(Previous Reference: C.O.S. (47) 151st Mtg. Min. 4)

THE SECRETARY was informed by telephone of the approval of the Chiefs of Staff to a draft telegram to the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, at Annex B to a Secretary's minute⁷ and it was therefore despatched@

⁷ C.O.S. 1466/5/12/7.

@ Sent as C.O.S(M.E.)179 and C.O.S(M.E.)180

-8-

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Reference:

FO 371 / 81833

7. PALESTINE - ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

E11899/18/9

37

(Previous reference: C.O.S.(47)152nd Meeting, Minute 8)

THE COMMITTEE took note of a telegram⁺ from the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, and a telegram[#] from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, containing their comments on the policy regarding Jewish illegal immigration prior to our surrendering the Palestine Mandate.

+ 36495/MIL
071150A/December

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51833

Minutes.

Station 24

Entry 6

~~12361~~

E

6.0.5(47) 159 # mtg 23 EC 38
17 Jan 1947

E11899

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1	1	2	2	2	2

10. PALESTINE - ILLEGAL JEWISH IMMIGRATION

39

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(47)159th Meeting, Minute 7)

THE COMMITTEE took note of a telegram⁺ from the
Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East reporting their views on the
future policy to be adopted towards illegal Jewish immigration.

⁺ 192/CCL

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thing to be Written in this Margin.

31 DEC 1947

12
G.O.S (160th Mtg.)

Minutes.

Easton Sept 1947
19 Dec. 1947.

40

E11899/48G

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E

16 DEC

1947

PALESTINE

42

**Registry
Number
FROM**

E11943/48/31

No.

6.0

Dated

L. M. Beclay

*Received
in Registry*

13 Nov

16 -

Federal Immigration Policy

Has seen OCP (47) 27 (E11891/48/5)
Noted that 40. considered his statement in
ad hoc Committee might be reasonably
interpreted by the Arabs as a commitment to
maintain the quota at its present figure.
State, little indicated that the Arabs understood
that it was made clear that we were left
free to alter the quota.

Last Paper.

11832

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

17/12

This is all over now. The Cabinet have decided in principle not to increase the quota (except possibly for an ~~an~~ unannounced few hundreds after Jan. 1st).

The careful phrasing of this statement was explained by the CO representative but ^{majority} the feeling of the O.C.P. was strongly against an increase, however wide we might have left the door open.

X

h.v. 12 ~~12~~
Dec. 17

(Action completed.)

PL 22, 2

(Index.)

29/7/68

Next Paper.

11945-

W. Beckley HB 19/12
20470 F.O.P.

29470 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51833

16 DEC

13th December, 1947.

My dear Zeebo,

You will remember that I repeated the phrase "system of control" in an emphatic way and my purpose in doing so was to make it clear that we were left free to alter the quota. I am sure that this must have been understood by the Arab representatives: indeed Little indicated to me in conversation that they had noticed the point. If you agree, I should be grateful if you would inform those concerned in the Foreign Office.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Luke for his information.

H. Beeley, Esq., C.B.E.

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	1			2	

Reference: **EO** 371 / 51833

E

7 11961

7 DEC

44

1E11961/48/31

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

Acum

568/56/47

11 Dec

17.

Illegal Immigration Italy
 Refers to letter E10899/48/31) which covered
 Rome dispatch 527. Showing that whole question
 of French Illegal Immigration and the assistance
 given to it by the ASOC has again been
 thoroughly mixed with the Foreign Affairs.
 We have informed that certain concrete measures
 will be taken.

Last Paper.

11845-10989)

References.

1990-91

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Higham. 60

~~Robertson~~ M.1.5

Entered ✓ Bal of
Rick H.B. 46

Kuck

✓ Jan 7

Off. Pharmacy, W. Hong
from 2. Dept

8, Copied to Jan 7
1419ham
checked Robert's

(Action completed.)

9 Feb 71

Next Paper.

11 962

(Minutes.)

holes to:

c.c

17. I.5

Advent Office

Home Office (Mr. Roche)

It is clear from this letter and from the despatch in E 11716 that the Italians are at last taking more effective measures to control the entry of Jews into Italy and their movements inside the country. It does not, however, appear that immediate results can be expected.

expected. The activities of the A. J. D. C. and its association with the U.S. authorities and with the I. R. O. are still a source of trouble. Refugee Dept. here, I know, been pressing I. R. O. to modify their attitude toward this body's illegal activities but nothing seems to have been ²⁹⁴⁷⁰ F.O.P. done by I. R. O. Would Refugee Dept

1	2	3	4	5	6
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References:

5

27

51833

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Dept. be prepared to tackle I.R.O. again?
 A.S.D.C.'s second asset is the general belief that they enjoy U.S. support. We can obviously not expect the U.S. Govt. to publicly repudiate their illegal activities but could not the U.S. Ambassador in Rome tell the Italians privately that he would not oppose any action which the Italian authorities took to check these activities? Now that the U.S. Govt. are adopting a more cooperative policy, we might be able to persuade the State Dept. to ~~also~~ instruct their Ambassador accordingly.

Finally, I think the time has come to point out to the Italians that we have given them valuable help in preventing the entrance of Jews to Italy and that they should now take more effective steps to prevent the departure of Jewish illegal immigrant ships.

Eastern Dept. would be grateful for the observations of:

Western Dept. (Italian Section)
 UN (E) Dept.
 N.A. Dept. } first

Rubble
 (J.E. CABLE)

Ms. Duns
 Dec. 19

I thought we had quite recently

45

Mr. Channing Rowal
 from. I slept

8, 10/11/40 Jan 7
 Robertson 1411

~~take~~
 covered Cab off

Jan 7

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FO 371 / 61833

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recently registered a protest 46
in Rome, & that the Embassy
could be relied upon to keep
the Italians pretty well up to
the mark without false press
prompting from here. I doubt
if the fact that after many months
we have done something effective
about the Northern frontier will be
likely to induce the Italians to
take any special steps regarding
shipping.

J. D. Brown.

22/12

The IRO Administration in Italy has now been completely
"purged", the arch-villains Varrichione & Borieri and the complaisant Henry
have departed and I do not think that there is much point in our pressing
IRO further in this matter. The IRO Secretariat have already
come under fire at the recent Preparatory Commission
meeting because of their "freezing order" designed to prevent
illegal entrants from receiving assistance, and I should
be most reluctant to ^{ask them to} expose themselves to further
criticism from the pro-Jewish element member Governments
of PCIRD.

It should also be borne in mind that much, in fact most,
of AJDC's activities are unconnected with illegal traffic and
are of considerable value in the relief and rehabilitation
of refugees. It would therefore be very difficult for IRO to
adopt a hostile attitude to an organisation with which
it enjoys very good relations.

AWH Wilkinson 29/12
AWH WILKINSON

I agree. The new IRO team, Edmond Henry and
Brig Daly, know what to look out for and
the latter is in close touch with Sir V. Gallet.
When he is in the saddle, I see no reason why
we should not get into direct touch with him
if we have suggestions to make, that is to say
provided we are duly circumspect. C.B. Appleby
Subject

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61833

Subject to the limitations imposed by the above minutes, I see no harm in the idea of asking the State Dept. if they would instruct their Ambassador as A. Cable suggests.

Chadman
20/12

Drafts to Rome and Washington accordingly.

Stable
(S.E. Cable)

This will not take effect in time to make much difference but we had better do it. B Dan 5 1/1

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61833

48

1136

17 DEC

11/7/6/84

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3768/1/40

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was

Foreign Office.

References

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RECEIVED IN O.S.

16 DEC 1947

5175/48/9

49

was drawn to ~~SENT TO DEPT~~ letter from the Ambassador to Count Sforza last June (Rome despatch No. 248). The Minister in reply stated that all vehicles whatever their markings, which were caught transporting illegal immigrants, would in future be confiscated (Rome despatch No. 301). This measure has never been effectively carried out by the police, and no doubt the main reason, as the Ministry have recently admitted to us in informal conversation, is that the Jews have large funds to draw on whereas the Italian policeman is miserably paid. We shall continue to be up against this factor, which will always partially negative whatever measures the Italian Government may adopt to control the activities of Jews.

6604/48/9

4. Another important factor has been the Italian Government's obvious and understandable reluctance to take any action against the AJDC, which might provoke American criticism. In our telegram No. 824 of 12th April last we mentioned that the Italians had complained to us about the AJDC's activities, and suggested that the status of this body might be taken up with the Central Committee of U.N.R.R.A in Washington. We also suggested trying to ensure that A.J.D.C. was not allowed the same privileged status by the I.R.O. as it had enjoyed with U.N.R.R.A. The A.J.D.C. still continues, however, to be given a free hand with "Machsharoths" which get their supplies from the I.R.O. Italy, and the latter has so far shown no sign of using its influence to stop the AJDC's illegal activities. We hope a stronger line will be taken, as soon as the long overdue changes in the directing staff of the I.R.O, Italy have taken place.

3190/48/9

Yours ever,

Chancery.

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51

st months of
the mandate.

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.
J.B. Tans

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52

7th January, 1948.

Confidential.

We enclose a copy of a letter from Rome Chancery No. 569/56/47 of the 11th December about the organization of Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine from Italy.

2. As you will see from paragraph 4 of this letter, the Italian belief that the activities of the A.J.D.C. enjoy American support increases the Italian Government's reluctance to take effective action against that body. It occurs to us that it might help to dispel this illusion if the United States Ambassador in Rome were to inform the Italian Government that the part played by the A.J.D.C. in the organization of Jewish illegal immigration does not meet with the approval of the United States Government, who would not, therefore, oppose any action taken by the Italian Government to restrain the illegal activities of this organization.

3. As you know, Italy is now the only country outside the Black Sea from which appreciable numbers of Jewish illegal immigrants are still reaching Palestine waters. With Cyprus crowded out by the passengers of the "Pan York" and "Pan Crescent", it is more than ever important to do everything in our power to reduce the constant trickle of Jews from Italy during these last months of the mandat. We should be grateful, therefore, if you would ask for the cooperation of the State Department in this matter.

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

**The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.**

1 2 3 4 5 6

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61833**

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(33054) Wt. 14886/147 75,000 6/47 A. & E. W. Ltd. Gp. 685

Registry
No. E 11961/48/31

J.E.C.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

Draft.

Rome & Embassy
from
Eastern Dept.

Copies to:

C.O.
H.I.S.

Embassy Office

RECEIVED IN DIVISION	
6 JAN 1948	
SE	6/1
DEPARTED	7/1

OUT FILE

+ 3c

Confidential

Dear Embassy,

Thank you for your
369/56/47
letter no. E 11961/48/31 of the 11th
December about Jewish activities
in Italy. We are glad to learn
that the Italian authorities are
~~now~~ beginning to take
more effective action against
the organizers of Jewish illegal
immigration.

2. The U.S. Govt. have
lately adopted a more
cooperative attitude towards this
problem and who are accordingly
writing to the Embassy at
Washington, asking them to
request the State Dept. to
instruct the U.S. Ambassador
in Rome to inform the
Italian Govt. that the
furtherance of Jewish illegal
immigration

6p
53
7 Jan

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Reference:

FO

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immigration by the A.J.D.C.
is not approved by the U.S.
Govt, who would raise no
objection to any measures
which the Italian Govt.
might take to ~~and~~ prevent
such illegal activities. If
the State Dept. are willing
to do this, it might help
to dispel the illusion of
American support for the
A.J.D.C., to which you
refer in para. 4 of your
letter.

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.
JB Jan 5

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61833

55

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

7th January, 1948.

(E 11961/48/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Chancery,

369/56/47

2. The United States Government have lately adopted a more cooperative attitude towards this problem and we are accordingly writing to the Chancery at Washington, asking them to request the State Department to instruct the United States Ambassador in Rome to inform the Italian Government that the furtherance of Jewish illegal immigration by the A.J.D.C. is not approved by the United States Government who would raise no objection to any measures which the Italian Government might take to prevent such illegal activities. If the State Department are willing to do this, it might help to dispel the illusion of United States support for the A.J.D.C., to which you refer in paragraph 4 of your letter.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

**The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Rome.**

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1947

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11 1968

17 DEC

56

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E11968/48/31

D. E. Kendall

Bucharest

26/22/47

9. Dec

17 -

Illegal Immigration from Roumania
 Refers Bucharest tel 1352 (E10744/48/31)
 Roumanian Press reports that an organisation of
 Jews has been 'discovered' - Bucharest which
 issued false immigration certificates, travelling
 documents, and visas
 Further Roumanian.

Last Paper.

11962

References.

(Minutes.)

Copies to: M.I.5 } usual
 C.O. } names
 Cabinet Office }

This confirms previous reports suggesting
 that the attitude of the Roumanian
 Govt towards this traffic has changed.
 Please see also E11835
 Southern Dept 26/12

Galile
 (J.E. CABLE)
 18/12

These favourable developments are
 a bit late in the day, unfortunately.
 JD Dec. 18

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. M. I. 5. (Mr. Robertson)
 C. O. (Mr. Higham)
 Cab Office (Ch. Evered)
 Dec. 23

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

J. E. C.
 12/29/12

J. E. C.
 12/29/12

Next Paper.

E12034

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61833

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CONFIDENTIAL

111068

17 DEC

57

26/22/47.

British Legation,
Consular Section,
Bucharest.
9th December 1947.

Dear Department,

With reference to Bucharest telegram No. 1352 of 15th November 1947 and Chancery Letter No. 74/53/47 of 3rd November 1947 addressed to Southern Department, the Roumanian Press today reports that an organisation of Jews has been 'discovered' in Bucharest which issued false immigration certificates, travelling documents, and visas.

2. Considerable quantities of forged documents and visas were found, mostly, say the newspapers, for countries that had no official representatives in Roumania. Venezuela and Honduras are specifically mentioned. The documents are said to be perfectly forged.

3. 43 persons have already been arrested. The head of the organisation appears to be a certain Stefan Goebel and the technical expert is said to be one Bronislav Achendorf.

4. We are trying to ascertain whether any forged British or Palestinian travelling documents or visas were found and if we succeed we will let you know.

5. It would appear that the Hungarian and Roumanian Governments are, at last, taking measures to prevent the wholesale passage of their frontiers by 'illegal emigrants', among whom have recently been discovered many of their political opponents. Important quantities of foreign currency and precious stones and metals have been smuggled out of the country by these clandestine travellers. It is possible, moreover, that since Anna Pauker became Foreign Minister with the official responsibility that she has thereby assumed, that she herself has "condemned" this traffic which hitherto she had supported.

6. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Director of Migration & Statistics at Jerusalem, the Passport Control Department, and H.M. Embassy at Washington.

Yours ever,

A. C. Rendall.

Head of Consular Section.

Eastern Department
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

Copies to: Director of Migration & Statistics, Jerusalem.
Passport Control Department.
H.M. Embassy, Washington.

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E 12034

1947

PALESTINE

18 DEC

58

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 12034/48/31

R. Duff Cooper

(Paris 1)

1082

17 Dec.

18 Dec.

Illegal Immigration through Italy
 message for Acting Sec. B.N.A. Paris to 141050.
 giving synopsis of Vienna tel about meeting
 of Chiefs of Staff of U.K., France & U.S. held
 on 17. The meeting is to discuss
 measures to prevent Jews going to Italy from
 French & U.S. zones of Austria.

Last Paper.

E 11968.

References.

(Minutes.)

I have no idea why the Admiralty
 should be interested. This information is
 out of date, but Paris have had copies
 of the minutes.

J 24/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

J E 24/12

(Index)

R 29/12/48

Next Paper.

E 12053

30471 F.O.P

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FO 371 / 61833

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12034

18 DEC

E 59

Cypher /OTP

ADMIRALTY

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper D. 6.10 p.m. 17th December, 1947
No. 1052
17th December, 1947 R. 6.26 p.m. 17th December, 1947

Please pass following to Admiralty.

To: Admiralty.

From B.N.A. Paris.

SECRET

[Begins].

Your 151018. Following is repetition of my 141050.

[Begins].

Following paraphrases Vienna telegram addressed
Foreign Office Information Paris, Rome, Washington,
Jerusalem.

[Begins]. Meeting on Chief of Staff level between
British, French and United States arranged for November 17th.
United States and French have agreed to British Draft
Agenda and it appears probable that United States intends
to be cooperative.

[Ends].

2. Understand meeting is to discuss measures to
combat flow of Jews into Italy from French and United States
zones of Austria and into French zone from United States zone.

141050 [Ends].

171602.

PPP



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7 12053

1947

PALESTINE

18 EC

60

Registry Number **K12053/48/31**

FROM *Rabat Consulate*
General.

No. *B* *F. D. No.*
Dated *4/1/19/49*

Received } 11 Dec
in Registry } 19 Dec

South Africa: Illegal Immigration.

Refers to F.O. letter of Sept 30 (F8621/48/31)

Encloses copy of report by Chief of Police
French zone regarding Zionist activities.
Heber is aware of a Zionist center
French border for assisting illegal
immigrants.

Last Paper.

2-12034

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Scherr. M.I.S
Dec 31

(Action completed.)

Feb 61,

(Index.)

29/9/48

Next Paper.

E12055

29470 F.O.P.

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Reference:

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BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,

R A B A T.

11th December, 1947.

41/19/49
RESTRICTED

12053

19 DEC

Dear Department,

With further reference to your letter E 8621/48/31 of September 30th regarding centres of Zionist activity in French North Africa for the organisation of Illegal Jewish Immigration to Palestine, we attach a copy of a report by the Chief of Police in the French Zone which has been handed to us by the Head of the Diplomatic Cabinet.

The protectorate authorities maintain that no such organisations exist in the French Zone. The only interest shown in Palestine by the Jews in Morocco is confined, the report states, to the collection of funds on the occasion of Jewish feasts. As regards the attempt made in the early part of November to embark illegal immigrants off the coast of Algeria, the report states that the Moroccan Jews who were left behind had left Morocco in April, May and June at a time when the frontier guards were unable to cope with the unexpected movement of Jews into Algeria. The frontier forces had since been strengthened and were now in a position to stop any further illegal immigration. Those Moroccan Jews who had managed to cross into Algeria had been very quickly discouraged and the letters received and the reports of those who had returned to Morocco seemed to have restrained others from attempting to immigrate to Palestine.

We have ourselves no information about any Zionist centre in French Morocco for assisting illegal immigrants. In most Jewish houses there is a collection box. The Acting British Consul in Fez informs us that he has heard from a reliable source that the Jews in Casablanca, Rabat and Fez have started an energetic campaign to collect funds to help their co-religionists in Palestine in their struggle for independence. The amount realised so far is said to be several million francs.

We are copying this letter to Algiers, Tunis, Casablanca, Fez, and the Staff Officer (Intelligence), Gibraltar.

Yours ever,

Rabat.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference: FO 371 / 51833					

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62

ACTIVITES SIONISTES AU PROTECTORAT

Il est exact qu'un certain nombre de Marocains figuraient parmi les israélites qui ont tenté de s'embarquer le 4 novembre à bord d'un navire panaméen sur une plage près d'Alger. Il convient cependant de préciser que ces émigrants clandestins avaient quitté le Maroc depuis déjà plusieurs mois. Il s'est manifesté, en effet, aux mois d'avril, mai, juin de cette année un brusque engouement pour l'émigration vers la Palestine parmi la population israélite du Maroc. Cet enthousiasme, dû probablement à l'attrait d'une propagande qui les touchait pour la première fois a été de très courte durée. Les difficultés de tous ordres rencontrées en Algérie par ceux qui avaient réussi à franchir la frontière les ont rapidement calmés. Le découragement est vite apparu et les lettres reçues, puis les récits de ceux qui, abandonnant leurs projets, rejoignaient leurs domicile, semblent avoir arrêté les velléités de leurs coreligionnaires. Il faut ajouter, d'autre part, que les services de contrôle de la frontière algéro-marocaine, un moment pris au dépourvu par cette émigration soudaine et très particulière, disposent maintenant de moyens efficaces pour empêcher l'émigration clandestine.

Quant aux associations sionistes au Maroc, leur activité est, pour le moment, sur tout morale et intellectuelle: fondation d'écoles, d'oeuvres de bienfaisance, etc... L'intérêt qu'elles portent à la Palestine ne se matérialise que par l'organisation de collectes de faible importance à l'occasion des grandes fêtes juives.

En résumé, il semble donc que la situation actuelle ne présente aucun sujet d'inquiétude à cet égard et qu'elle ne risque pas de reprendre de l'acuité dans des délais rapprochés. Il m'a été d'ailleurs signalé qu'une centaine d'israélites marocains, qui n'ont pu s'embarquer à Alger le 4 novembre, se disposaient à regagner leurs pays d'origine.

1	2	3	4	5	6

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61833*

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E12085/48/31

E12086

E12091

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61833

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329

E

12162

64

1947

PALESTINE

23 DEC

Registry
Number

E12162/48/31

FROM

M. H. Grace

No.

beaded jewelry

Dated

Received
in Registry

8. Nov

23 -

Information re Bernstein.

Rpts E9649/48/31) Not able to get any further
information about Bernstein. Informant
was at the time of the Foreign Office and
is now Secretary of Health when he told of
the incident. He said he could not remember the
name of the person who made the remark, and
he is still not sure whether it was Bernstein.

Last Paper.

12116

References.

(Minutes.)

Copy to: Miss Streetfield M.I.S.
of her letter in E9649

[Signature]
23/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Streetfield M.I.S.
ref
(Xerox) 31

(Action
completed.)

[Signature]
21/12

(Index.)

[Signature]
29/12/48

Next Paper.

12231

29470 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61833



CONFIDENTIAL. 23 DEC

BRITISH LEGATION,
CIUDAD TRUJILLO,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

8th December, 1947.

Dear Eastern Department,

I am sorry that I am not able to get any further information about Bernstein. My informant was at that time Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but is now Secretary for Health. When he told me of the incident he said that he could not remember the name of the person who made the remark reported, and he is still not sure whether it was Bernstein. I do not like to press him too much as the incident is in any case only a confirmation of similar action on the part of such persons as Andrew Somers.

Yours ever,

The Maximal

Eastern Department,

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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Reference: **FO 371 61833**

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References

22

833

36

330

E

E 12231

66

PALESTINE

123 JAN

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 12231/48/31

Lord Lovett

Washington

7167

23 Dec

23 Dec

Illegal Immigration
 Rpt to 13177 (E 12231/48/9) towards 1/1 of
 points not covered from before before
 before before and before, as well as using their
 influence with Jewish Agency to prevent further
 Illegal Immigration

Last Paper.

12162
E 12231/48/31

References.

E 12231/48/9

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 99.P. ✓ 23 Dec

Rel W'Yan 323
Jan. 9.Rptd. U.K. Del. New York.
124

8, 99.P. ✓ Jan 12.

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

P. 131/1, 29/4/48

Next Paper.

12246

(Minutes.)

M. Sargent Please enter white.

Sir Orme Sargent has asked to see this paper
 minuted.

The suggestion put forward by Mr. Lovett and Mr.
 Henderson is that we should undertake to remove the
 illegal immigrants, now detained in Cyprus, to Palestine
 until our Mandate comes to an end, and that in return
 for this undertaking the Jewish Agency should pledge
 themselves to prevent illegal immigration and to desist
 from claiming control over a port during the remainder
 of the mandatory period.

It does not seem that there would be much value
 in undertakings given by the Jewish Agency on the
 subject of illegal immigration. If we are to take
 them at their word, the recent departure from Bulgaria
 of two ships carrying 12,000 illegal immigrants took
 place in defiance of their instructions. In any case,
 to make an agreement on these lines now would be to
 lock the stable door after the horse had gone.

As for our own side of the proposed bargain, there
 are strong political objections to emptying the Cyprus
 camps before the termination of the Mandate. We have
 repeatedly said that we shall retain our responsibility
 for the whole of Palestine so long as the Mandate lasts.
 The admission of nearly 30,000 immigrants (including
 those now on board the Pan York and the Pan Crescent)
 would in these circumstances be a serious provocation
 to the Arabs. After the 15th May, on the other hand,
 we can point out to the Arabs that our detention of Jews
 in Cyprus is an act taken by virtue of our position as
 mandatory in Palestine, and that once the Mandate has
 ceased to exist we cannot logically continue to keep
 these people in detention.

I assume, from the recent discussions in the
 Defence Committee and from the speeches made by Ministers
 in the House of Commons (see our telegram to Washington
 No. 13177) that our present intention is to permit the
 entry into Palestine of the greater part of the Cyprus
 detainees/

28888 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51833

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67

H. Beeley,

RAB Burrows
31.12

mth night
 31.12.

BB Jan

H. B. Seeley 27.

MSL-8.1

per Barnes

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Reference: **FO 371** / **64833**

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Minutes.

Copy sent to C.O. for Colonial
Gustav's concurrence. 68

H.B. 5/

Revised draft sent.

H.B. 9/

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61833

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12231

ION DEC
23 JAN

24 Dec 1947

ε $1/y$

(b) Notwithstanding their unwillingness to seek the President's approval for the above mentioned declaration, the State Department were prepared to do all in their power to stretch administrative regulations to the limit for the purpose of delaying the departure of vessels/..

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 51833

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No. E 12231 / 48 / G

~~TOP SECRET.~~
Secret.
~~CONFIDENTIAL.~~
~~RESTRICTED.~~
OTHER

F. O.,

January, 1948

Despatched

M.

Draft.

Washington.

Telegram.

No.....

(Date).....

Repeat to :—

U.K. Delegation,
New York,
Jerusalem.

For CO connection

H. B. Kelley 27

2.1

~~Enoch~~ ~~God~~ ~~Cypher~~ 3.1

Distribution :—

World Organisation.

Copies to :—

GIANT.
IMPORTANT.
SECRET.

Addressed to Washington Telegram No. 1000 of January 1948 repeated for information to U.K. Delegation New York and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 7167 / [of 23rd September].
Palestine.

I do not think there would be any advantage in endeavouring to reach an agreement with the Jewish Agency on the lines suggested by Lovett and Henderson. You will since have seen that the Pan York and Pan Crescent have sailed for Palestine with no less than fifteen thousand illegal immigrants in spite of the fact that the Jewish Agency (at least according to their own account) endeavoured to prevent their sailing. In the light of this incident I do not think it would be possible to attach much value to any undertakings the Jewish Agency might agree to give on the subject of illegal immigration.

2. As for our own side of the proposed bargain, there are strong political objections to emptying the Cyprus camps before the termination of the Mandate. We have repeatedly emphasized that we must retain our responsibility for the whole of Palestine so long as the Mandate lasts. The admission of the immigrants now detained in Cyprus would in these circumstances be a serious provocation to the Arabs.

3. Once the Mandate has been laid down, the situation/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 43697-140 100m 3/47 G.S.St. Gp 620

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reference:

FO 371 54833

71

situation will be quite different. It will then be possible for us to point out to the Arabs that our detention of these ^{Jews} in Cyprus is an act taken by virtue of our position as Mandatory in Palestine and that once the Mandate has ceased to exist we cannot logically continue to keep these people in detention.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51833



My Reference 76021/48

Your Reference E.12231/48/G

9-1-48

72

Dear Bealey,

I am sorry not to have

returned your draft reply to Washington 7167 sooner.

While we agree with ^{the} line you take, we suggest that it might be better to give greater prominence to the main objection, which is the "Arab political"

argument. The difficulty of reaching an agreement

with the Agency is, after all, a subsidiary question.

It has since become known that the Agency did

try and stop the PANS, but failed. Perhaps you

would consider the enclosed redraft, which sets

1 out

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Reference:

FO

371

51833

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out the position as we understood it. 73

Yours sincerely

John Whigham

The S. of S. has seen the drafts but does
not wish to comment on the detailed
drafting.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61833

No. E12231/48/G.

SECRET

Draft

Washington

Telegram

No. 323.

(Date) JAN 9

Repeated to

U.K. Delegation,
New York 124
Jerusalem.

6 yph

Distribution:

World Organisation

CYPRUS

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

January, 1948.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET

GIANT

OUT FILE

Date

Despatched

Addressed to Washington Telegram No. 323
of January 9th repeated for information to
U.K. Delegation New York and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 7167 [of 23rd ~~September~~ ^{December}]
Palestine.

There are of course strong practical
arguments for emptying the Cyprus camps before
~~and the matter has been considered some time ago~~
the termination of the Mandate, but they are, in
our view, overridden by the political objections.
We have repeatedly emphasised that we must retain
our responsibility for the whole of Palestine
so long as the Mandate lasts. The admission of
the immigrants now detained in Cyprus would in
these circumstances be a serious provocation to
the Arabs.

2. Once the Mandate has been laid down, the
situation will be quite different. It will then
be possible for us to point out to the Arabs that
our detention of these Jews in Cyprus is an act
taken by virtue of our position as mandatory in
Palestine and that once the Mandate has ceased to
exist we cannot logically continue to keep these
people in detention.

3. We had ~~in fact~~ ^{previously considered the possibility of} taken into account, before
~~trying to empty the Cyprus camps during the~~
~~reaching the above conclusion, that an increase~~
~~mandatory period) in the hope that the~~
~~in the Cyprus quota would cause the Agency such~~
a difficult problem of absorbing new arrivals
would ~~be~~ ^{compel the Jewish Agency} that they would ~~themselves wish~~ to bring illegal
immigration to an end. ^{While it} ~~It~~ would have been made
clear that ^{the emptying of Cyprus was} ~~any increase in the quota would be~~
dependent on the complete cessation of illegal

/immigration,

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Reference:

FO

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✓ 7-34

75

immigration, there would have been no question of
~~about~~ endeavouring to reach an agreement with
 the Jewish Agency on the lines suggested by
 Lovett and Henderson. The failure of the
 Agency to prevent the sailing of the PAN YORK
 and PAN CRESCENT, despite their attempts, ^{now} shows
 that it would not be possible to attach much value
 to any undertakings the Agency might agree to give
 on the subject of illegal immigration.

H.B. 91

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OUT FILE

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].
Cypher/OTP WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION.
E.12231/48/G
Secret

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 323

9th January 1948. D. 6.25 a.m. 10th January 1948.

Repeated to U.K. Del. New York No. 124
Jerusalem

IMPORTANT
SECRET
GIANT

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 323 of January 9th.,
repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation
New York and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 7167 [of 23rd December: Palestine].

There are of course strong practical arguments for emptying the Cyprus camps before the termination of the Mandate but they are, in our view, overridden by the political objections. We have repeatedly emphasised that we must retain our responsibility for the whole of Palestine so long as the Mandate lasts. The admission of the immigrants now detained in Cyprus would in these circumstances be a serious provocation to the Arabs.

2. Once the Mandate has been laid down, the situation will be quite different. It will then be possible for us to point out to the Arabs that our detention of these Jews in Cyprus is an act taken by virtue of our position as mandatory in Palestine and that once the Mandate has ceased to exist we cannot logically continue to keep these people in detention.

3. The possibility of trying to empty the Cyprus camps during the mandatory period had previously been considered and rejected despite the hope that the difficult problem of absorbing new arrivals would compel the Jewish Agency themselves to bring illegal immigration to an end. While it would have been made clear that the emptying of Cyprus was dependant on the complete cessation of illegal immigration, there would have been no question of endeavouring to reach an agreement with the Jewish Agency on the lines suggested by Lovett and Henderson. The failure of the Agency to prevent the sailing of the Pan York and Pan Crescent, despite their attempts, now shows that it would not be possible to attach much value to any undertakings the Agency might agree to give on the subject of illegal immigration.

TTTTTT

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(c) The State Department were exerting themselves to enjoin restraint on the Jewish agency and during the past few days Lovett and Henderson had respectively spoken to Shartok and Epstein. Unfortunately, the pro-Arab reputation of the State Department did much to blunt their influence with the Zionist leaders who were in any case disposed to argue that they were themselves unable to exercise effective control over the activities of other Jewish organisations engaged in undercover promotion of illegal immigration.

2. After Balfour had again entered a plea that the United States should leave no stone unturned to restrain the Jewish Agency, Henderson remarked that it had occurred to him that the necessity for emptying the camps in Cyprus, to which you and the Colonial Secretary had referred during the recent debate in the House of Commons, perhaps offered a means of dealing with the question of illegal immigration during the next few months. From such impressions as he had derived of the attitude of the Zionist leaders, Henderson thought that there were reasonable grounds for thinking that they would be amenable to a suggestion by His Majesty's Government that, in return for an undertaking that the immigrants from Cyprus would be transferred to Palestine before the mandate was laid down, they should pledge themselves to prevent illegal immigration during the interim period and to forego the port which the United Nations had recommended should be made available to them by the 1st February. Mr. Henderson qualified his opinion that the Zionist Agency would enter into such an agreement to the extent of saying that it would almost certainly [gp.undec.] that the "exodus" immigrants should be included in its scope.

3. Lovett supported the foregoing suggestion of Henderson in a way which led Balfour to infer that they had discussed it together beforehand. In spite of what Lovett had earlier said about the Zionist Agency's allegation that it could not control the activities of other Zionist bodies in this country, both he and Henderson seemed to think that the Agency's influence could be effectively brought to bear to honour an agreement along the lines suggested.

4. I mention this idea for what it is worth. It of course goes far beyond the arrangements foreshadowed in paragraph 3 of your telegram under reference, to which Balfour did not of course allude in his talk. Lovett was incidentally at pains to emphasise that, as he and Henderson saw it, no arrangements of the kind which they envisaged would be effective unless they were embodied in a formal agreement with the Jewish Agency.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram 110.
[Copy sent to Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem].

QQQ

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 1 2
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<p>(584) 1947</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E12247 /G 26 DEC 1978</p>
<p>E12247/4819³¹ Consul General Sir F. Evans, New York. No. 286 23.12.47.</p>	<p>Suspect shipping. Panamanian ship "Nadina" (or "Medina")</p>	
<p>Last Paper. E.12246</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J 28/12</p>	
<p>References. E11204/4819</p>		
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p>		
<p>(Action completed.) 28/29/12</p>	<p>(Index.) Vga.</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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Reference: FO 371 / 61833

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29 DEC 1947

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

D. 5.03 p.m. 23rd December 1947

R. 5.05 a.m. 24th December 1947

Repeated to Havana

Washington.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 286 of
23rd December repeated for information to Havana and
Washington.

• Your telegram No. 273 to Havana.

According to local shipping report ship cleared for Cardenas Havana and Athens on December 3rd with general cargo.

Foreign Office please pass to Havana as my telegram No. 4.

[Repeated to Havana].

V V V

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 64833

<p>(583) 1947</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E12246 /G 80 26 DEC 1947</p>
<p>E12246/48/9 Sir R. Campbell Cairo. No. 2375 24th Dec. 1947.</p>	<p>Jewish illegal immigration. "Las Tanplas."</p>	
<p>Last Paper. E12231</p>	<p>(Minutes.) I.I.P.</p>	
<p>References. E 11736/48/9</p>	<p>25/12</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p>		
<p>(Action completed.) 25/29/12</p>	<p>(Index.) W.H.</p>	
<p>Next Paper. E12247</p>		

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Reference: FO 371 / 61833

712246

81

23 DEC 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R. Campbell, D. 6.38 p.m. 24th December, 1947.
No. 2375
24th December, 1947. R. 7.00 p.m. 24th December, 1947.

Repeated to Alexandria,
Port said (for S.N.O.).) SAVING.

IMPORTANT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 2375 of
December 24th repeated to Alexandria, Port Said for
Senior Naval Officer both Saving.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 2258 S.S. Las Tamplas.

Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have
promised their co-operation and stated verbally
that necessary instructions have been given for
denial of facilities to this vessel.

QQQQ

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585 1947

Palestine
EASTERN

E 12262/G
- 27 DEC 1947 82

E 12262/48/C³¹

Hawane
221

Repld 24
Rec'd 27 Dec 1947

Jewish illegal immigration:
SS. "Medina"

Last Paper.

E 12247

References.

E 11204/48/C

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Repld w/ hon
C/C New York
copied RE-SEC

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

27 30/12

W.H.

Next Paper.

Ret in Dept - re^(Minutes.) spm. attached

27/12

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FO 371 / 51833

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83

2. Jean Pandelis, a notorious organiser of Jewish illegal immigration, is believed to be connected with this ship and she may possibly be intended for the traffic. If she does arrive at Havana, please telegraph any information you can obtain.

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
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Green
E 84

84

FROM HAVANA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

D. 3.56 p.m. 24th December, 1947.

24th December, 1947. R. 8.50 a.m. 26th December, 1947.

R. 8.50 a.m. 26th December, 1947.

Repeated to Washington
Consul General New York.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 221 of 24th December repeated to Washington and Consul General New York (Foreign Office please pass to both places).

611204 / 480

Jewish illegal immigration.

S.S. "Medina" arrived at Tanamo in Oriente province of Cuba December 15th and then moved to Antilla, which she left for Genoa December 22nd with full cargo of sugar. No indication of illegal activities.

[Repeated to Washington and Consul General New York.
Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat].

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E12260

E12361

E12362

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Reference:

FO

371

61833

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E

E 12402

86

1947

PALESTINE

31 DEC

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 12402/48/31

W. O. G. Maltison

6.0.

7.5.11.3/47

to Mr. Bailey

30 Dec

31

*General Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants**Transmit copy of Palestine tel 268 Paving of Nov 4
and of reply 80 tel 3391 of Dec 24, regarding
question of granting a general amnesty to Jewish
Illegal Immigrants.*

Last Paper.

12362

References.

(Minutes.)

*This seems sensible enough.**Table*
(E.J.E. CABLE)

31/12

H.B. 1/1

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)*G. L. 1/1*

(Index.)

1/1
29/7/48

Next Paper.

File 2-7948

29470 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61833



The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

30th December, 1947.

My Reference 75113/47.

Your Reference

SECRET

12402

31 DEC

My dear Beeley,

I enclose a copy of saving telegram No.268 of the 4th November from the High Commissioner for Palestine in which he raises the question of a general amnesty for illegal immigrants to enable them to be considered for the grant of Palestinian citizenship. The circumstances in which this question has arisen are fully set out in the saving telegram. We have come to the conclusion that to grant a general amnesty at this time would have unacceptable political repercussions among the Arabs and the Secretary of State has accordingly replied to the High Commissioner in this sense. I enclose a copy of the telegram.

*Yours etc,
C. H. G. Gathorn*

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61833

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75113/47

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 24th December, 1947. 15.45 hrs.

No. 3391 Secret.

Your telegram No. 268 Saving. Amnesty for
illegal immigrants.

Consideration of the problems raised in your telegram was deferred until the United Nations recommendations were known and future immigration policy had been examined in the light of these recommendations. I have now come to the conclusion that to grant a general amnesty at this time would have unacceptable political repercussions. As the disabilities attached to persons who entered Palestine illegally and were subsequently debitted to quotas are unlikely to persist beyond 15th May, 1948, I consider that there is no need for the present Palestine administration to take action to grant status to these persons. I feel the situation might be met by the issue of a directive to the Director of Migration that in the case of applications for naturalisation as Palestinian citizens, from persons who had entered Palestine illegally the fact that they had done so should not be held as of itself precluding them from the grant of certificates. Such applications might be considered on their merits in other respects and the fact of illegal entry would not be held against the applicant in assessing his good character for the purpose of Article 7(1) (a) of the Palestinian Citizenship Orders.

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Reference: FO 371 / 51833

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8. Clear.

SF/399/47

89
END

SAVING.

From the High Commissioner for Palestine.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

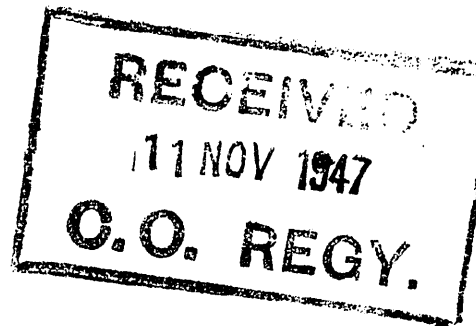
4th November 1947.

Date.....

268.

No.....Saving.

SECRET. PRIORITY.



The High Court in a recent judgement has ruled that in cases in which an illegal immigrant has been permitted to remain in Palestine, e.g. by the failure to make an order of deportation or by the revocation of such an order if made, he must be deemed to have been lawfully admitted and is entitled to count his subsequent sojourn in Palestine as residence for the purpose of qualifying for naturalization as a Palestinian citizen provided that a certificate has been deducted in his respect from an immigration quota.

2. In giving this judgement, of which a copy is annexed, the court emphasized that it did not fetter or limit the discretion vested in the High Commissioner by article 7(3) of the Palestinian Citizenship Orders. My powers under this article have been delegated to the Director of Immigration.

3. I am advised that the judgement of the High Court may not be good law, but I consider that it would be inexpedient to appeal it to the Privy Council.

4. In the light of the situation created by this judgment I have considered in Executive Council whether the proper course would not be to declare an "amnesty" for illegal immigrants on the lines of the 1931 "amnesty", which was declared for the purpose of facilitating the 1932 census. In favour of this course are the two considerations :

- (i) that of the 60-70,000 Jewish illegal immigrants in Palestine only about half have been deducted from immigration quotas;
- (ii) that Arab and other non-Jewish illegal immigrants are not deducted from immigration quotas.

On the other hand to grant a general "amnesty" at this time might have political repercussions. As you are aware the Arab states at the London Conference and at U.N.O. have expressed their willingness to recognize as citizens of an independent unitary state of Palestine only those Jews who have acquired Palestinian citizenship. To enable some 60 - 70,000 Jews hitherto precluded from obtaining Palestinian naturalization to acquire Palestinian citizenship at this moment might well be considered by Arabs of Palestine and the states of the Arab League as a political move altering the status quo to their detriment while the Palestine question was sub judice U.N.O. Indeed press references to the judgement indicate that the Arabs are already alive to the fact that the judgement may lead to extensive naturalization of Jews resident in Palestine. I shall therefore be glad of your guidance on the question of a general "amnesty" for illegal immigrants.

5. Should you decide that an "amnesty" would be inopportune I am advised that while it would not be proper for the Director of Immigration to reject applications for naturalization on the ground that the residence of an illegal immigrant was not to be deemed residence for the purpose of qualification under article 7(1)(a) of the Palestine Citizenship Orders it would however still be open to him in exercise of his discretion to reject applications on the ground that illegal entry into Palestine was a factor in the record of the applicant making it undesirable that he should be naturalized, or on the ground that the legalisation of illegal immigrants was undesirable for reasons of general policy.

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